

## **Safety Message for Residents in Emergency Work Areas**

The aftermath of a flood presents a number of potential dangers for injury and illness. Due to hazards associated with the post-flood environment in Ellicott City, the following precautionary measures are advised for all residents and business owners working in the flood environment:

- Those with chronic conditions, the immune-compromised and children under the age of 16 should not participate in cleanup efforts.
- Pre-hydrate before coming into the area and continue to hydrate while working.
- The heat, along with the exertion can cause dehydration quickly. Rest frequently in a cool area.
- Under some work conditions, NIOSH approved respirator masks (may be necessary (e.g., for exposures to mold-contaminated materials/environments, or other recognized hazards). Carefully follow the instructions to fit the N95 mask after purchase.
- Wear disposable non-porous gloves UNDER work gloves to protect the skin.
- Follow directions on all cleaning supplies to ensure safe use.
- Clean contaminated clothing and footwear after walking in the flood zone and before entering buildings/residences after leaving the area.
- Wash hands frequently while in the flood area and after leaving the area.
- Take care to protect open scratches or wounds from coming in contact with the contaminated water. These waters can cause infections. Wounds should be cleaned thoroughly with soap and water and a tetanus shot may be needed.
- If you feel sick, notify any public safety personnel working in the area or call 9-1-1.

May 2018